

**Glory to God: Proclaiming God's Goodness**  
**How to Give God Glory - Offering Part 2**  
**1 Chronicles 16:28-31; Hebrews 13:15-16**

**1 Chronicles 16:28-31**~ <sup>28</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! <sup>29</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; <sup>30</sup> tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. <sup>31</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

**Hebrews 13:15-16**~ <sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

I. Introduction

I know that some of us are not "book readers". We just find reading books taxing and tiresome. But you know what? We should be readers. Leaders are readers. And the good leaders are ones who read well.

- Books challenge our thinking and open our minds.
- Books make us broader and bring us deeper.
- Books force us to reflect and compel us to reason.

And I am talking about good books, not fluffy, feel good books. If you have a chance to read one book this year (besides reading the Bible ... that goes without saying), you should pick up a copy of John Piper's most profound and provocative book, Desiring God, subtitle, Meditations of a Christian Hedonist. Desiring God is Piper's trademark. This book defines who John Piper is to the point that he named his ministry "Desiring God", and his website is [DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org).

The book is about glorifying God. And the theme and thesis of his book can be summed up in one provocative statement: "God is most glorified in us when we are the most satisfied in Him."

Let me repeat that: "God is most glorified in us when we are the most satisfied in Him."

Quoting from the fame theologian, Blaise Pascal, Piper notes:

All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves.

Whatever we do, no matter how virtuous or how vile, we do it for one objective ... it is to make us happy.

And then Piper adds his own thoughts:

... seeking one's own happiness is not a sin; it is a simple given in human nature. It is a law of the human heart, as gravity is a law of nature.<sup>1</sup>

And that one chief end that brings us the truest and maximum happiness is to fulfill the very thing that we were created to do ... that is to glorify God.

"Man's chief end is 1) to glorify, and 2) to enjoy Him forever", states the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

"God is most glorified in us when we are the most satisfied in Him." When we enjoy Him ... when we find our satisfaction and significance in Him, He is most glorified in us. To glorify God and to proclaim God's goodness is our happiness and enjoyment.

## II. Three Ways to Give Glory to God

Last week, we ask a man who knows the heart of God, how we can please God and find our enjoyment in Him. King David, whom God Himself said that he is a man after God's own heart, tells us three ways that we can glorify God. This is taken from 1 Chronicles 16:28-31.

### 1 Chronicles 16:28-31~

<sup>28</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,

{ ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

{ <sup>29</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

{ bring an offering and come before him!  
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;

{ <sup>30</sup> tremble before him, all the earth;  
yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

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and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

There are three things that we need to have and do in order to glorify God.

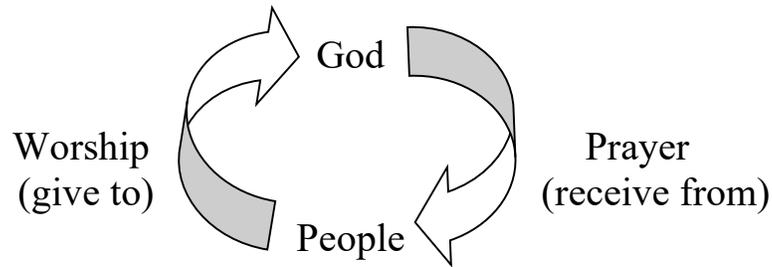
1. First, we are to give glory by bringing an Offering to God (1 Chronicles 16:29).

Offering is synonymous with worship. To offer a sacrifice is worship, and to worship is to offer a sacrifice.

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<sup>1</sup> John Piper, "Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist" (Mulmoham Publishers; Sisters, Oregon, 1986), p. 19.

Recall last week that offering is a great place to start because this is one of two things that men and women throughout time forge a relationship with God - worship and prayer.<sup>2</sup>



2. Second, we are to give glory by Trembling before God (1 Chronicles 16:30).
3. Third, we are to give glory by Rejoicing before God (1 Chronicles 16:31).

This is John Piper's thesis in his book, remember? "God is most glorified in us when we are the most satisfied in Him."

More on these last two points next week and the following week. But this week, I want to continue with part two of the first way we glorify God ... that is we offer sacrifice.

### III. New Covenant Offerings

When we talk about offering in the Old Testament, we are talking about animal sacrifice. However, in the New Covenant, we do not offer animals sacrifices any more. Instead, there are three offerings in the New Testament that please God. These three offerings, or worship, are found in Hebrews chapter 13.

**Hebrews 13:15-16**~<sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of <sup>(1)</sup>praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to <sup>(2)</sup>do good and to <sup>(3)</sup>share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

There are two things of importance to note about these offerings.

1. First, these offerings are not Optional; these are Obligations.

We cannot pick and choose what we want to do. We must do all three. Some might think, "If I do two out of three that is good enough, right?" No. These three offering ARE the sacrifices that are pleasing to God. That is what the author of Hebrews says in verse 16 of Hebrews 13. Do you want to please God? It is found right here.

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<sup>2</sup> The third thing that men and women of God do is "meditation". Worship, Prayer, and Meditation are the triune activities of a spiritual person. For more information on Meditation, read this author's series, "*The Way of Christian Meditation*".

2. Second, these are not Conveniences; these are Costly.

These offerings are called "sacrifices" for a reason. It must cost us something. If it does not cost us anything, they are not sacrifices, they are leftovers ... conveniences.

And by the way, sacrifices are NOT negative, meaning that it is not something that we give up. Sacrifices are positive, meaning that it is something that we give to. Sacrifices are something that we bring to God, like an animal sacrifice. It is something we bring and offer to God. It is not something that we give up and bring nothing to God.

One person told me that he sacrifices a good career to serve God. I asked him what he means. He said he could have worked in a secular world and could have made some money but he decided to go into the ministry and take a lower pay.

How is that a sacrifice? What are you giving to God? What are you bringing to Him? If you really want to sacrifice, work hard in the secular world and offer your service to God and the Church for free. That is a sacrifice. That is bringing something to God.

#### IV. Offering (Worship)

Specifically, there are three sacrifices that please God.

1. First, a sacrifice of Praise (Hebrews 13:15).

We worship God by praising God. We glorify God by sacrificing the fruit of our lips. We bring our voices and give to God. Praising and singing to God must cost us. But it is not only praising and singing. It is also preaching and teaching. It is giving thanks and giving honor. It is anything that we do with our lips.

Sacrificing the fruit of our lips much cost us something. But at the same time, it comes naturally.

The words of C.S. Lewis are so meaningful to me in his *Reflections on the Psalms*. He writes:

I had not noticed either that just as men *spontaneously praise whatever they value*, so they *spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it*:

- “Isn’t she lovely?
- Wasn’t it glorious?
- Don’t you think that's magnificent?”

The Psalmists in telling everyone to praise God are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about. My whole, more general, difficulty about the praise of God depended on my absurdly denying to us, as regards the supremely Valuable,

what we delight to do, what indeed we can't help doing, about everything else we value.

*I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; **the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.***

When we take pleasure in something or someone, we naturally praise. You and I can tell what a person values. Listen to who or what he or she praises about the most or all the time. That is what he values.

2. Second, a sacrifice of Doing Good (Hebrews 13:16).

**Hebrews 13:15-16**~ <sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

What is the "doing good"? Well, we do not need to guess. The author of Hebrews tells us in the beginning chapter.

a. One: Radical Hospitality (Hebrews 13:1-3)

**Hebrews 13:1-3**~ <sup>1</sup> Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Doing good is a sacrifice. Radical hospitality is a sacrifice. People are hurting ... the strangers, the prisoners, and the mistreated. They are looking for friends. "People are not looking for a friendly church, they are looking for friends". Hence what the church needs to do is to have radical hospitality. This cost. And it has to be intentional.

b. Two: Honor Marriage (Hebrews 13:4)

**Hebrews 13:4**~ <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Honoring marriage is a sacrifice. Taking care of our marriage or helping people in their marriage is the "doing good" that pleases God.

c. Three: Steward the Finances (Hebrews 13:5-6)

**Hebrews 13:5**~<sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

The sacrifice of doing good involves doing good with our money. Brothers and sisters, I seen money make people do crazy things, or rather the love of money. We have to discipline and take hold of our finances. More on this in a minute.

d. Four: Obey the Leaders (Hebrews 13:7)

**Hebrews 13:7a**~<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God ...

Does this mean that any so called leaders who teaches the Word of God we should obey? No. Look at the qualifier in the next sentence.

**Hebrews 13:7**~<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

We obey the leaders because they teach the Word of God, and not only that, they live it. We imitate the faith.

Jump down to verse 17.

**Hebrews 13:17**~<sup>17</sup> Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

3. Third, a sacrifice of Sharing (Hebrews 13:16; cf. Philippians 4:18).

**Hebrews 13:15-16**~<sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

What is this sacrifice of sharing?

**Philippians 4:18**~<sup>18</sup> I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

In 1 Corinthians 9:12-18, Paul states is this:

**1 Corinthians 9:13-14**~<sup>13</sup> Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? <sup>14</sup> In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

But Paul boast in the fact that he can minister without charge so that the gospel will not be hindered.

**1 Corinthians 9:12, 18~** <sup>12</sup> If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ ... <sup>18</sup> What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

But Paul continues to teach about the sacrifice of sharing is for the Church benefits.

In Mark 10, Jesus confronts the rich, young ruler.

**Mark 10:21~** <sup>21</sup> And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

Taking about the sacrifice of sharing, that is the stewardship of money is a benefit to Christians.

1. A Sacrifice of Sharing is sharing your Money.

This is a major sacrifice. Four areas the Bible teaches where God wants us to share and steward His money.

a. One: take care of the Pastors (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

**1 Timothy 5:17-18~** <sup>17</sup> Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”

b. Two: take care of the Poor (1 Timothy 5:3-4)

**1 Timothy 5:3-4~** <sup>3</sup> Honor widows who are truly widows. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.

**James 1:27~** <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

c. Three: take care of your Family (1 Timothy 5:8)

**1 Timothy 5:8~** <sup>8</sup>But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

d. Four: take care of the Missionaries (Philippians 4:18)

**Philippians 4:18~** <sup>18</sup>I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

#### VI. The Blessing

**Presider:** May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. May the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be unto you.

**Congregation:** And also to you.

#### VII. Forgiven Life (Life Application)

1. One student of Scriptures noted that about two-third of Jesus' teaching, illustrations, and parables have to do with money. What we do with our money is a barometer of our heart. Take a look at some of the Scripture passages and write down what they have to say about money.

a. Matthew 6:19-21: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Matthew 6:24: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Ephesians 4:28: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. 1 John 3:17: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. It is time to get real with our finances. All the wealth that we have belong to God. The Bible tells us where God wants us to invest and steward His money. There are about four areas where we need to be good steward of God's money. Take some time to think, pray, and put into action where and how much you can offer the offering of sharing.

Look at your budget. How much are you able to sacrificially give each month? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

From that amount, divide according to what God places in your heart.

a. Church (i.e. Elders/Pastors):

1) Which church will you share: \_\_\_\_\_

2) How much will you share: \_\_\_\_\_

b. The Poor:

1) Which ministry to the poor will you share: \_\_\_\_\_

2) How much will you share: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Family:

1) Do you take care of your parents, spouse, and children? Do you give them allowances and teach them to offer a sacrifice of sharing: \_\_\_\_\_

2) How much will you share: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Missionaries:

1) What missionaries or ministry will you share: \_\_\_\_\_

2) How much will you share: \_\_\_\_\_